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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
Rare cougar sighting in Michigan
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SPORTS
Get your basketball brackets!
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HOW TO
Whip up a birthday milkshake
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March 28, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 257 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

5TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

WOW!

The Week Junior celebrates a magnificent milestone

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

TOP 40
The 40 finalists in this year's Regeneron Science Talent Search were high school seniors from 39 schools in 16 states.

This year's top winners (from left): Ava Grace Cummings, Matteo Paz, and Owen Jianwen Zhang

A great start

Many people who won the Science Talent Search as teens achieved additional high honors afterward. Their accomplishments include 14 Nobel Prizes in science, one Nobel Peace Prize, 13 National Medals of Science, and two Fields Medals. Another 27 won MacArthur Fellowships, often called "genius grants."

Teens win major science award

On March 11, a total of 10 high school seniors from across the US were awarded top prizes in the Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS), a prestigious national competition. This year, 2,471 students submitted entries, which was the highest number of applicants since 1967.

What is the competition?

STS is the country's oldest and most distinguished youth STEM competition. It was started in 1942 by a nonprofit organization now called the Society for Science, in partnership with Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The computing company Intel began overseeing STS in 1998, and the drug company Regeneron took over in 2017. Each year, Regeneron awards $3.1 million in prizes to students and their schools. Past winners have gone on to start companies, lead government agencies, invent medical treatments, and win major awards, including 15 Nobel Prizes (see box above).

How does the competition work?

Any high school senior who is attending school in the US or a US territory, or any US citizens attending school abroad, can apply by submitting their independent research project. Experts judge the entries on scientific rigor (how well it meets scientific standards), creative and original thinking, and the student's potential to be a leader. The judges first choose the top 300 students, then narrow them down to 40 finalists who attend STS Finals Week in Washington, DC. Finalists present their research to a panel of judges and thousands of guests, including leading scientists. The top 10 winners are announced at a ceremony, which was hosted this year by Suzanne Malveaux, a former journalist and White House correspondent.

What do the students win?

Each of the top 300 students is awarded $2,000, and each student's school also receives $2,000 to support STEM education. In addition, the students are invited to apply for a summer internship at Regeneron. STS finalists win prizes ranging from $25,000 to the first-place award of $250,000.

Who were the top winners?

First place went to Matteo Paz, an 18-year-old from California. Paz developed a new way of detecting objects in the night sky. He designed computer algorithms (set of instructions to accomplish a task or perform a computation) to sort through 10 years of astronomical data and create a catalog of 2 million stars and other objects in space, many of which may never have been spotted before. Second place and $175,000 went to Ava Grace Cummings, age 18, who is from North Carolina. She used fruit flies to study STAC-3 disorder, a rare muscle disease that was first discovered in members of the Lumbee tribe in North Carolina. Cummings, a member of the tribe, found that a common herb called nettle improved movement in fruit flies with the disorder. Third-place winner Owen Jianwen Zhang, age 18, is from Washington state. He won $150,000 for using computer programming to solve a long-standing math problem involving objects called 3-uniform hypergraphs. Find out more about the projects at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Regeneron2025.

How did people react?

Paz said he was thrilled by the possibility that scientists could benefit from his research. Cummings said she hoped her research could help the Lumbee tribe. Maya Ajmera, head of the Society for Science, said, "The remarkable creativity and dedication of these students bring renewed hope for our future." George D. Yancopoulos, president and chief scientific officer at Regeneron, told the finalists, "You are America's best and brightest. I hope this moment inspires you to push boundaries, challenge assumptions, and use your brilliance to change the world."

Saturn has 128 more moons

It's official: The number of moons orbiting Saturn has nearly doubled. On March 11, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) recognized 128 additional moons. This brings Saturn's total moon count to 274, which is twice as many as all other planets in the solar system combined. Jupiter is second with 95.

A moon is an object that orbits a planet but is not a star. An international team of scientists discovered Saturn's new moons in 2023 using the Canada France Hawaii Telescope in Hawaii. The new moons are a few miles across. That's tiny compared to Earth's moon, which is 2,159 miles across. Because of their size, scientists think the newly identified Saturn moons are small pieces that broke away from larger moons during powerful collisions about 100 million years ago.

This is not the first time scientists have found new Saturn moons. They found 62 between 2019 and 2021. But they think they have discovered all of the planet's moons they can find for now using technology that is currently available.

A rendering of Saturn

DID YOU KNOW?
Down syndrome is named for doctor John Langdon Down, who wrote the first scientific paper on the condition in 1866.

Each year, about 5,700 babies are born with Down syndrome in the US.

A day to recognize Down syndrome

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is set to be observed on March 21 to raise awareness, promote inclusion, and ensure equal opportunities for people with the genetic condition. The day is marked by events, campaigns, and advocacy efforts.

Down syndrome is a condition that affects a person's development. People usually have 46 chromosomes (tiny structures in cells that carry instructions for how the body grows and functions), but people with Down syndrome have 47 due to an extra copy of chromosome 21. This affects how the brain and body develop, leading to differences in learning, growth, and physical traits.

The United Nations (UN) designated March 21 as World Down Syndrome Day in 2011. The date, the 21st day of the third month, was chosen to represent the fact that chromosome 21 appears three times (instead of the usual two) in the cells of a person with Down syndrome.

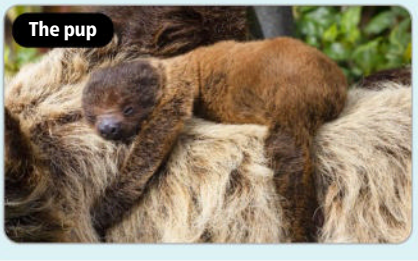
Each year, WDSD has a theme. This year's is "Improve Our Support Systems," which focuses on education, healthcare, transportation, job training, and legal protections to ensure that people with Down syndrome have the resources they need for independence and social participation.

To mark the day, activities will take place at schools and community centers. The annual World Down Syndrome Day Conference will be held at UN headquarters in New York City, bringing together self-advocates (people who speak up for their rights) and experts. "The time is now to strengthen and create the support systems that we need," said Isabella Hass, one of the conference speakers.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A WELCOME ARRIVAL

A sloth pup was born at the San Diego Zoo in California, the first since 2022. The baby boy is busy bonding with his mom, and the public will be able to see him soon. "This adorable little dude is growing up fast," the zoo said.



The pup

Peter (left) and Jeremy Rush

EARNING BADGES

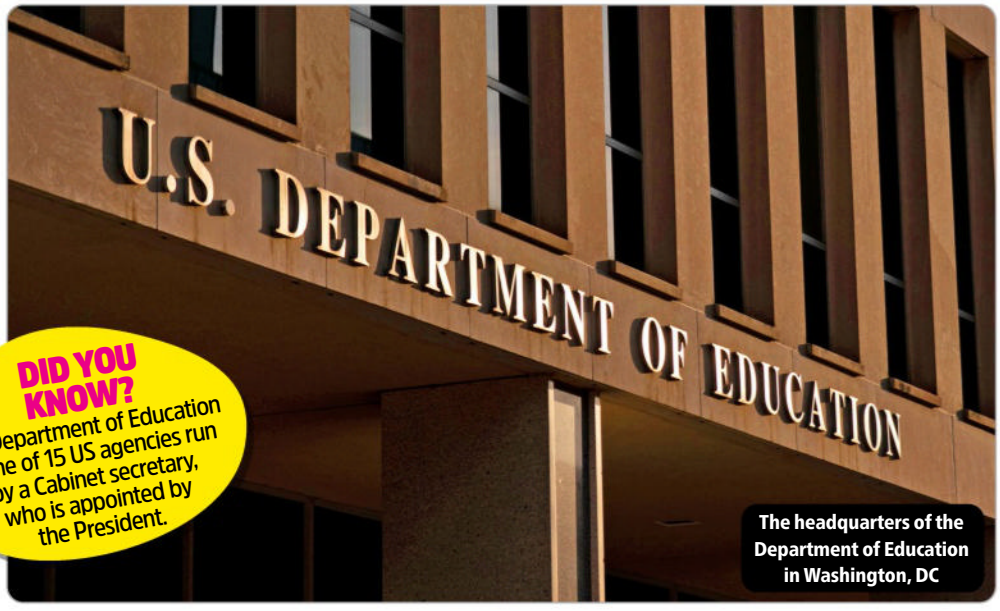
Two brothers from Idaho have visited all 63 US national parks—and 108 other sites run by the National Park Service—and received a Junior Ranger badge from each one. Jeremy and Peter Rush, ages 8 and 6, are thought to be the youngest brothers to complete the challenge.

A LITERARY LANDMARK

The 200,000th Little Free Library (LFL) is open! To celebrate the milestone, the nonprofit that creates the book boxes donated it to Benjamin E. Mays IB World School, an elementary school in St. Paul, Minnesota, along with 200 books. It was the first of 200 LFLs that will be given to schools across the US this year.

The library

ON THE COVER: DEAN ABATEMARCO/FREEPIK; GETTY IMAGES (2); ERICA CLARK; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); SAN DIEGO ZOO; COURTESY DAVID RUSH; LITTLE FREE LIBRARY; ON LEFT PAGE: CHRIS AYERS PHOTOGRAPHY/LICENSED BY SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE; REGENERON; NOBEL PRIZE



DID YOU KNOW?
The Department of Education is one of 15 US agencies run by a Cabinet secretary, who is appointed by the President.

The headquarters of the Department of Education in Washington, DC

History of the DOE

President Jimmy Carter created the Department of Education in 1979, fulfilling a promise he made to teachers' unions. Its first goals included ensuring equal access to educational opportunities for all students and supporting states' efforts to improve school quality. The DOE also conducts research on best teaching practices.

Upheaval in US Education Department

On March 11, President Donald Trump's administration fired more than 1,300 people who work for the Department of Education (DOE). Nearly 600 workers also chose to leave. This means the DOE, which previously had 4,133 employees, will now have a workforce of about half that size.

What is the Department of Education?

The DOE is a US agency that works to ensure equal access to education for all students. Its budget of $283 billion provides less than 10% of public school funding across the US, most of which pays for programs for students with disabilities and supports low-income school districts. It doesn't mandate what schools teach—state and local school districts determine that. At the college level, the DOE implements the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which allows students to apply for aid to help pay for college. It also distributes grants and loans to college students.

What happened?

After Linda McMahon was sworn in as Secretary of Education on March 3, one of her first actions was to reduce the DOE workforce. Many employees who worked for the Office for Civil Rights were fired. This means there will be fewer workers to investigate the 12,000 accusations of civil rights violations at schools. About 25% of the people who work in the Federal Student Aid office were fired.

How did people react?

Many Republican leaders, including Trump, supported the cuts as a way to save money and increase efficiency in the government. The layoffs create the "best path forward" for the department, McMahon said. Democrats and education experts denounced the decision. Randi Weingarten, head of one of the nation's largest teachers' unions, said the move would harm educators and students.

On March 13, the attorneys general from 20 states and the District of Columbia filed a lawsuit (legal dispute) against the US. It said that the job eliminations would affect the ability of their states to provide education for all children.

What will happen next?

The remaining DOE staffers will continue to do their jobs, and the lawsuit will proceed through the court system. If the lawsuit is successful, it could lead to the reversal of some or all of the staffing cuts.

WORD OF THE WEEK

ANNIVERSARY

An anniversary is a day when we remember something significant that happened on the same date in a previous year. It takes its name from the Latin *anniversarius*, which means "returning every year." In Old English, an anniversary was known as a *mynddæg* ("mind-day") because it was a time when an important event was brought to mind.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

March 17, 2020

The Week Junior ships its first issue

On March 17, 2020, the first issue of *The Week Junior* went to press. The editorial team had been writing stories and designing layouts from the magazine's office in New York City but moved to remote work on March 13 due to the pandemic. The first issue featured articles about school closures, parrots, and how to draw cartoons. Today, *The Week Junior* is the fastest-growing magazine in the US.

The first issue

Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore

Astronauts returning to Earth

When *The Week Junior* went to press on March 18, US astronauts Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore were embarking on a 17-hour journey on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft to return to Earth from the International Space Station (ISS). The two had arrived at the ISS last June for a one-week stay, but their return was delayed due to a malfunction in their capsule. During their nine months, they performed spacewalks and conducted research.

Cleanup in Alabama

Severe storms devastate region

Beginning March 14, a storm system tore through seven states, including Kansas, Missouri, and Mississippi, across the central and southern US. More than 710 windstorms and 80 tornadoes, as well as large hail-, dust-, and rainstorms, were reported, resulting in at least 42 deaths and destroying thousands of homes and businesses. The full extent of the damage may not be known for days.

Two of the new residents

Retirement home for penguins

The New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts, has opened a new enclosure for six older African penguins. The island is separate from the main penguin area and is designed to provide a calm, comfortable environment for the animals, who range in age from 14 to 34. The area will also make it easier for workers to care for the penguins, many of whom have medical conditions.

One of the cougar cubs

AMAZING ANIMAL
Cougars are considered a small cat species because they purr but do not roar.

Rare cougar sighting in Michigan

For the first time in 100 years, two cougar cubs have been spotted living in the Michigan wilderness. A resident took photos of the cubs on March 6 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and scientists reviewed the photos to confirm that the animals were cougars. Wild cougar cubs have not been seen in Michigan since the cats were hunted to extinction there in the early 1900s.

Cougars, which are also known as mountain lions, pumas, or panthers, can run up to 50 mph. Males can weigh up to 200 pounds. They once lived throughout North America, but humans began hunting them because they thought they were a threat to livestock. Now cougars are found only in Florida and the western US, and they are listed as endangered in many states. However, cougars are important to ecosystems (groups of plants and animals that affect one another) because as top predators they help keep populations of other animals at a sustainable level.

The cougar cubs are believed to be 7 to 9 weeks old. They haven't been seen since March 6, and wildlife officials aren't sure where they are. Their mother was not seen with them, but biologists believe she was likely nearby. Cougar cubs depend on their mother for food and protection and tend to stay with her for the first two years of their lives.

Brian Roell, a biologist with Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, said that the cubs' presence doesn't confirm there is a breeding population of cougars in Michigan. The cubs could have been born elsewhere. There have been more than 130 confirmed cougar sightings in Michigan since 2008, but many of them are believed to have traveled there from other states.

Nevertheless, the presence of the cubs is an exciting development for Michigan's wildlife, said Roell. "It's something that should be celebrated—that we have the habitat to support an elusive animal like this."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Police chase swan through traffic on Florida highway" *UPI*

MICHIGAN DNR; GETTY IMAGES (2); NASA; AP; VANESSA KAHN; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); DOE; MICHIGAN DNR

United Kingdom
Supermarkets to reduce food waste

Tesco, the largest supermarket chain in the UK, has announced that some of its 3,700 stores will start giving away expiring food to customers at the end of the day. The plan is part of an effort by the company to cut the amount of food it wastes in half. Groceries that are about to expire will first be offered to charities and store workers. Then customers will be allowed to take remaining items for free.

Vatican City
Special events for Pope Francis

On March 13, Pope Francis marked 12 years in his role as the head of the worldwide Catholic Church. To observe the occasion, a Mass (religious service) was held at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, the world's smallest country. The Vatican also released a photo of the Pope in the hospital, where he has been cared for since February 14 after falling ill. Children gathered in the square outside, holding signs and balloons, to wish him well.

Arero, Ethiopia
New leader welcomed with ceremony

Thousands of people joined together in southern Ethiopia for a weeklong ceremony to celebrate a new leader for the Borana people. The leader, known as the Abbaa Gadaa, is replaced every eight years. A council of elders chose Guyo Boru Guyo to be the 72nd Abbaa Gadaa. He will oversee the Borana community and be in charge of solving disagreements between people.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands
E-boat zone in famous canals

The Netherlands' capital city has declared that it will introduce an environmental zone to its canal system in April. To reduce pollution and noise, only boats powered by electricity or hydrogen (a natural gas) will be allowed in the city's central canals. Some exceptions will be made, such as for historic museum boats that use gasoline or diesel.

Nepal
Artifacts returned

A group of 20 artifacts worth more than $3 million are being sent back to their home country of Nepal. The objects were stolen from cultural sites and sold to people in Europe and the US. They were later recovered by a US-based law enforcement team. They include a stone figure of a goddess, a Buddha statue from the ninth century, and a traditional painting of 15th-century military governor Gaganshim Bharo with two of his wives.

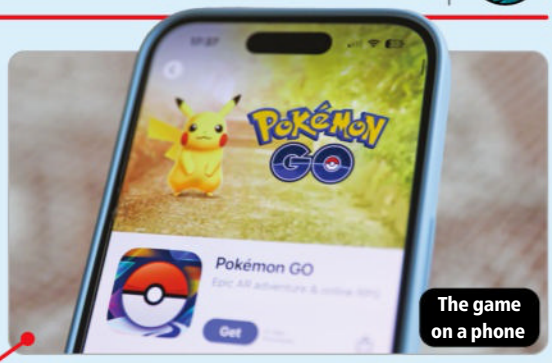
GETTY IMAGES (4); MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; AMENSISA IFA/BBC; MELBOURNE. VIC.GOV.AU; MANDAI WILDLIFE GROUP; SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Around the world

Workers put up a painting.

Tehran, Iran
Picasso works back on display

The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art has unveiled an exhibition featuring 66 works by the Spanish artist Pablo Picasso. In 1979, the museum removed these artworks from public view because the country's new rulers considered them culturally inappropriate. Now visitors can see prints and paintings such as the artist's *Portrait of a Man*.



The game on a phone

Saudi Arabia
Pokémon Go to change owners

Scopely, a video game company owned by Saudi Arabia's government, is set to buy Pokémon Go. The game involves "catching" creatures on players' phone screens while walking around in the real world. In recent years, Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars developing its gaming industry. Now Scopely plans to pay $3.5 billion for the game, which about 30 million people play each month, and the company that developed it.

Enjoying the buffet

Ayutthaya, Thailand
National Elephant Day celebrated

In honor of National Elephant Day on March 13, elephants at the Ayutthaya Elephant Palace were treated to fruit and plants in an all-you-can-eat buffet. The Thai government created the holiday in 1998 to remind people of the importance of elephants. Asian elephants are native to the region and are an endangered species. They are the country's national animal and are considered sacred in Buddhism, the main religion in Thailand.

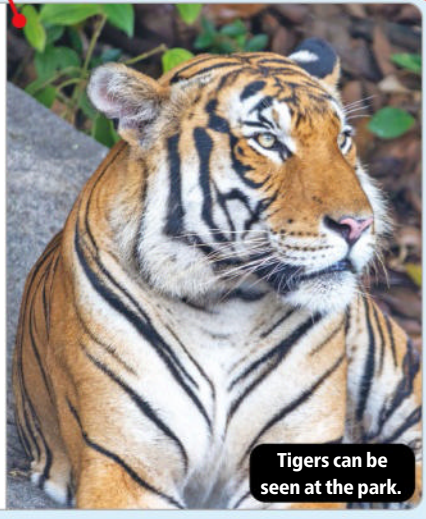
A dancer in the parade

Melbourne, Australia
First Wurundjeri float in parade

People lined the streets of Melbourne on March 10 to watch the parade at the end of the Moomba Festival, an annual event that showcases Melbourne's different cultures. Traditional Chinese, Greek, and Ukrainian dances were featured, and for the first time the parade included a float representing the Wurundjeri Indigenous people (first to inhabit a place).

Singapore
Forest park opens

On March 12, a new adventure park opened in the Mandai Wildlife Reserve. Rainforest Wild Asia allows visitors to climb across animal habitats and explore the 10 different zones of a typical Southeast Asian rainforest—from the tree canopy at the top of the forest to caves under the ground. There are 36 animal species at the park, including bears, monkeys, and tigers, and a Philippine spotted deer was recently born.


Tigers can be seen at the park.

Should schools get rid of lockers?

Some people say they're still helpful, while others think they're a poor use of space.

What you need to know

- **School lockers became popular in the US in the early 1900s, especially during the flu pandemic of 1918.**
- **They were a safe place for students to store their books, bags, and coats without spreading germs.**
- **According to one source, about 49% of public schools in the US provided lockers to students as of 2017–18.**
- **Some school districts are switching to smart lockers that can be opened with a tap of a student ID.**

READY TO LEARN
As of fall 2023, more than 49 million students were enrolled in US public schools from pre-K to 12.

It's a classic scene in movies and television shows: rows of lockers lining the hallways of a school, with students meeting up in front of them to chat and swap out their books. But in real life, lockers are more of an outdated blast from the past that isn't practical or popular anymore. In fact, many new schools are being designed without lockers because students simply don't use them. Many kids and teens prefer to carry everything they need for the school day in their backpacks. But other people think lockers still have their benefits and can be modernized instead of being eliminated. What do you think? Should schools get rid of lockers?

Yes—it's the end of an era

Students have only a few minutes to rush from one class to another, and their schools can be really big! They often don't have time to run to their lockers—which can be far away on a different floor—to grab their books and get to class before the bell rings. When everyone has to dash to their lockers at the same time, it's chaos. And more students are using laptops and online content to study and work on assignments, making lockers obsolete. Removing lockers, most of which are very old, will create more space in the hallways. Schools could use it to display artwork or other creative projects that will bring students together.

No—they still serve a purpose

Books can be really heavy, especially in higher grades, and lugging stuffed backpacks around all day isn't good for students' backs. Lockers ease the burden while also letting students keep all their stuff in one place and stay organized. And lockers aren't just for books. They hold sports gear and musical instruments that students shouldn't have to carry around all day. Schools could make lockers optional instead of eliminating them. Besides, lockers do more than store belongings. They're communal spaces where students can hang out, meet people outside their social groups, and make memories. That shouldn't be lost.

YES Three reasons schools should get rid of lockers

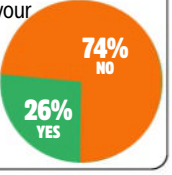
1. **Students have so little time between classes that it's just not practical for them to stop at a locker.**
2. **Big, heavy textbooks are being replaced by digital tools, which makes lockers kind of unnecessary.**
3. **Lockers take up a lot of room that could be used as collaborative spaces for students.**

NO Three reasons schools should not get rid of lockers

1. **Carrying around a beast of a backpack is bad for students' backs. Lockers solve that.**
2. **Students need a place to put more than books. They're often stashing sports gear and instruments too.**
3. **Lockers are a gathering place that can bring students together, and that's a tradition worth preserving.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if phones should be banned at concerts. Nearly three quarters of you want to keep your devices handy when you see your favorite performers.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think schools should get rid of lockers or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

A passion for action

Climate activist Mikaela Loach has written her first book for young readers.

Activist, author, organizer, and speaker Mikaela Loach, age 27, has dedicated her life to fighting for climate justice and protecting our planet. In her new book for middle-grade readers, *Climate Is Just the Start*, she shares stories from her activism journey while explaining the climate crisis and its broader impact.

The new book

Loach was born in Jamaica and moved to England, where she grew up in the countryside. At about age 5, she saw news coverage of a tsunami that struck countries that border the Indian Ocean, leaving many people without homes, food, or shelter. Upset by the devastation, she organized a bake sale to raise money for relief efforts. It taught her a lesson she has carried ever since. "Always choose to be active in the face of an issue you see," Loach told *The Week Junior*.

While studying medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Loach saw how poverty and inadequate housing could lead to poor health. She felt activism could create a bigger impact, so she shifted to writing, organizing, and using social media to push for climate action. She left school to write *It's Not That Radical* (2023) and has since grown her platform to more than 270,000 followers, appeared on major media like the BBC, and pushed for change at the government level.

In *Climate Is Just the Start*, Loach breaks down big topics like climate science and historical movements to help young people understand how the past shaped the world and how they have the power to shape the future. "Resistance is hope," she said. "Your big feelings are important—hold on to them."

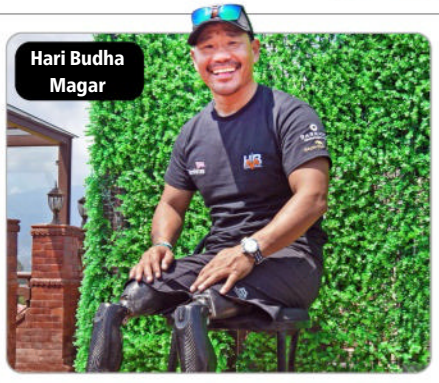
Mikaela Loach

DID YOU KNOW?
The 2019 Global Climate Strike was the largest climate protest in history, with about 6 million people marching across 150 countries.

Cooking up change

Award-winning chef Adam Simmonds is the co-founder of Home Kitchen, a new restaurant in London, England, that primarily employs people who have experienced homelessness. Employees receive fair wages while learning fine-dining skills from professional chefs. By providing stable jobs and hands-on training, Simmonds hopes to give people a fresh start in the hospitality industry and shift negative views of homelessness. He told *The Guardian*, "If you can change perceptions in [fine dining], you can change them anywhere."

Adam Simmonds


Hari Budha Magar

Climber on a mission

Nepalese mountaineer Hari Budha Magar has become the first double above-knee amputee to reach the top of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina, which stands at 22,831 feet. Magar, a former British Army soldier, lost both legs in an explosion while serving in Afghanistan in 2010. He now uses prosthetic (artificial) legs and has climbed five of the Seven Summits, the tallest mountains on each continent. His goal is to complete all seven. Magar hopes to inspire people with disabilities around the world. He told the BBC, "Disabled people can do anything."

OVERHEARD

"Nerves aren't always a bad thing. It means you care."

Paige Bueckers, the 23-year-old star player for the University of Connecticut women's basketball team, on what fuels her focus and dedication on the court

ALAMY; COURTESY THE PUBLISHER; GETTY IMAGES (2); REDUX

A sea toad

Brookesia nana

Stylobates calcifer

DiCaprio's snail-eating snake

Jonah's lemur

MORE TO COME
Scientists estimate that they have identified one tenth of all the species that exist on Earth.

The Rio Negro stream frog

Five years of species discoveries

Every year, researchers discover thousands of new species. A new species could be one that scientists had not yet recorded, had incorrectly identified in the past, or have encountered for the first time. In the five years since *The Week Junior*'s launch, experts have documented a wide variety of species that were previously unknown to science.

The year 2020 was an exciting one for primatologists (scientists who study primates). They identified a new type of monkey, called the Popa langur, as well as the 25th member of a group of little lemurs. Jonah's mouse lemur lives in northeast Madagascar and is about the size of a person's fist, with a white stripe between its big eyes.

A clouded tiger-cat

The following year, a group of whales living off the coast of Florida turned out to be a new species called Rice's whale. Meanwhile, in Madagascar, scientists found Brookesia nana. The size of a sunflower seed, this "nano-chameleon" might be the smallest reptile on Earth. It hides under blades of grass and hunts by flicking its tongue to capture tiny bugs on the rainforest floor.

In 2022, researchers in Japan collected a sea anemone that lives on the shells of hermit crabs, eating falling debris while it hitches a ride along the seafloor. The researchers named it Stylobates calcifer, after the fire demon Calcifer from the film *Howl's Moving Castle*. In coral reefs near the Maldives, scientists described a rainbow-colored fish that is born female and becomes male as it gets older. They called it the rose-veiled fairy wrasse.

The year 2023 brought five new species of snail-eating snakes, including one named after actor Leonardo DiCaprio's mother. In the mountains of Ecuador, researchers captured a treefrog that had never been seen before. Impressed by the Rio Negro stream frog's large size and "amazing colors," the team named it Hyloscirtus tolkieni, after the *Lord of the Rings* author J.R.R. Tolkien.

Last year, scientists determined that a group of wild cats in Central and South America was a new species: the clouded tiger-cat. And an expedition to underwater mountains near Chile spied more than 100 species, including a type of sea toad, a fish that can "walk" on the seabed. Experts say many more amazing species are waiting to be found.

PLACE OF THE WEEK
Greenland

Greenland is Earth's largest island, found at the far north of the planet. Despite its name, the island is about 80% covered by ice. In some places, tourists can walk on glaciers and view icebergs that rise more than 300 feet in the air. Greenland offers many outdoor activities, such as hiking, paddleboarding, and ice fishing. It also features fjords (narrow inlets of the sea) and the midnight sun, an Arctic phenomenon in which the Sun does not set for months during the summer. Many animals—including Arctic foxes, polar bears, whales, reindeer, and seals—live in Greenland.

A polar bear

JUAN CARLOS SÁNCHEZ; NIWCEL A; NOAA OFFICE OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH/DEEP-SEA SYMPHONY EXPLORING THE MUSICIANS SEAMOUNTS; F. GLAW; JOSE VIEIRA; MARINA BLANCO, PHD.; MEERWASSER-LEXIKON TEAM; H. BARRANTES/CRWILDLIFE FOUNDATION; GETTY IMAGES (2)

ITSY BITSY
Antarctic krill are up to 2 inches long and weigh less than one tenth of an ounce.

An Antarctic krill up close

Using satellites to count krill

Antarctic krill (small shrimp-like creatures) are an important food for larger animals such as penguins, seals, and whales. An estimated 700 trillion krill live in the ocean around Antarctica, but fishing and climate change may be affecting their numbers. Counting them accurately is a mind-boggling task, yet scientists have found a way.

The new method involves studying how the number of krill changes the amount of light seawater absorbs—a process that affects the color of the water. Researchers collected krill to study this effect. Cait McCarry from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland said, "We start with seawater, then we add in a krill and take a measurement [of how much light the water absorbs]. Then we add another krill and take another measurement."

The scientists will use this information to analyze water colors and light patterns in satellite images, which allow them to monitor the oceans from space. Experts hope this new technique will reveal how many krill there are and where groups of them swarm in the Antarctic seas.

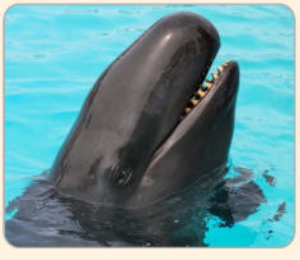
Animal of the week: Laysan albatross

Age is just a number for the world's oldest known wild bird. Wisdom, a Laysan albatross who is at least 74 years old, has brought about 30 chicks into the world. In fact, she is now raising another chick on a Pacific island.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Over 50 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** The Pacific Ocean and Hawaiian islands
- **SIZE:** About 2.5 feet long, weighing 5 to 10 pounds
- **DIET:** Squid, crustaceans, fish, and fish eggs
- **FUN FACT:** A young Laysan albatross can spend three years at sea without touching land.

Good week / Bad week

Rainforest mammals
The London Zoo's Rainforest Life habitat is experiencing a baby boom. It has recently welcomed the births of several endangered mammals, including two golden lion tamarins (pictured above) and an Alaotran gentle lemur.



False killer whales
A total of 157 false killer whales, members of the dolphin family, became stranded on a beach on the Australian island state of Tasmania. Experts were unable to return the whales to the ocean due to weather conditions and currents.

GETTY IMAGES (4); LONDON ZOO/SWNS

Ask an expert: "Why do dogs bark?"

Kaleb, 11, Washington

Dr. Gabrielle Fadl
Veterinarian,
Bond Vet

Barking serves as dogs' primary means of communication. It can indicate excitement, a warning, a call for attention, or even anxiety. For instance, a dog might bark to alert its owner to a stranger's presence, express excitement when playing, or seek attention when it feels neglected.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Bond Vet at bondvet.com.

Celebrating a fun,

To mark the fifth anniversary of *The Week Junior*, we've compiled some fascinating facts about the number 5!

GROUPED TOGETHER

"Quintet" is a word used to describe a group of five people. It is often applied to a musical group (like the boy band quintet *NSYNC, left). Quintet comes from the Italian word *quintetto*.

ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

In the 1960s, US biologist Robert Whittaker created the five-kingdom classification system, which divides all living organisms into five groups: Plantae (plants), Animalia (animals), Fungi (molds, yeasts, and mushrooms), Protista (mainly protozoa and algae), and Monera (prokaryotes).

MONEY MATTERS

US President Abraham Lincoln is featured on the $5 bill as a tribute to his leadership during the Civil War (1861–1865), one of the most significant events in US history. Fun fact: A $5 bill in circulation lasts for about five years!

NOTEWORTHY

Composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote his first known piece at age 5, a minuet and trio in G major. Plus, there are five horizontal lines on a musical staff that are used to indicate pitch and notes.

SPEED RECORDS

The men's 5K world record is 12:49, set by Berihu Aregawi of Ethiopia in 2021. The women's 5K world record is 13:54, set by Beatrice Chebet of Kenya (right) in 2024.

DO THE MATH

The number 5 is a prime number—a special number in mathematics that is only divisible by itself and the number 1. It is also the sum of two prime numbers!

$2 + 3 = 5$

HOW MANY HIGH SEAS?

On Earth, there are five named oceans—the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, and Arctic—which together cover about 70% of the planet.

GETTY IMAGES

fantastic five years

AWESOMELY ATOMIC

On the periodic table of elements, boron—which is an essential part of plant cells and necessary for plant growth, pollination, and seed formation—has an atomic number of 5.

B
BORON

MEANINGFUL RINGS

Each of the five Olympic rings represents one of the five inhabited continents participating in the Summer and Winter Games—Europe, the Americas, Africa, Australia, and Asia.

GREAT GAMES

Wordle is a game with five-letter answers, and every game starts with one of 2,309 possible solutions. In the game Scrabble, the letter K is worth five points.

K 5

HISTORY OF THE HIGH FIVE

Glenn Burke (above), a player for the Los Angeles Dodgers, is credited with inventing the hand gesture in 1977. During a game against the Houston Astros, teammate Dusty Baker hit a home run and began rounding the bases. The next batter was Burke, who ran to home plate and held his hand up. Baker, approaching the plate, raised his hand and hit Burke's palm—demonstrating the first high five.

RANDOM THINGS THAT WEIGH 5 POUNDS

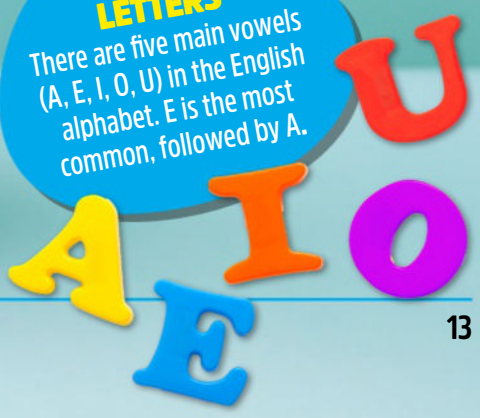
A chihuahua
A bag of flour
Three dinner plates
Six pairs of jeans
Two guinea pigs

WHAT'S IN A WORD?

The prefix "penta" means five. It comes from the Greek word *pénte*, which also means five. A pentagon is a five-sided shape, and a pentagram is a five-sided star. A pentameter is a line of poetry with five strong beats. A pentathlon is a sporting event with five competitions. A pentadactyl (such as a human!) has five digits (like fingers or toes) on each hand or foot.

BETTER LETTERS

There are five main vowels (A, E, I, O, U) in the English alphabet. E is the most common, followed by A.



SPECIAL BURIAL
In ancient Egypt, rulers and other important people were turned into mummies in a process that took about 70 days.

The entrance to Thutmose II's tomb (above) and a monument to the pharaoh (right)

Ancient king's tomb found in Egypt

For the first time in more than 100 years, a team of researchers has uncovered the ancient tomb of an Egyptian king. The burial place belonged to the pharaoh (ruler) Thutmose II, who ruled Egypt about 3,500 years ago. Experts are calling it the biggest discovery of its kind since King Tutankhamun's tomb was found in 1922.

Thutmose II ruled for about 10 years beginning in about 1480 BCE, which was during Egypt's 18th dynasty. His tomb was discovered underneath a waterfall in the Theban Mountains. It was about a mile west of Egypt's Valley of the Kings, a site in Upper Egypt where numerous pharaohs were buried.

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) discovered the tomb in 2022. At first they thought it belonged to the wife of a pharaoh because it was located near the burial sites of other queens. They recently determined, however, that it belonged to Thutmose II after finding his name and a reference to a "deceased king" in an inscription on a fragment of pottery in the tomb. The writing also mentioned Thutmose II's wife, Hatshepsut. After his death, she became a successful queen and one of the few female rulers in ancient Egypt.

A mummy some people think is Thutmose II

The tomb had other features that indicated it was built for a king, including a grand staircase and corridor. The ceiling was painted blue with yellow stars, a feature found only in king's tombs. There were also fragments of an ancient royal text.

Unlike King Tut's tomb, however, Thutmose II's burial place was mostly empty, with no mummy or ceremonial objects present. Archaeologists believe the tomb was flooded shortly after the king's burial and the contents of the tomb were moved to a second site. The team that found the tomb is investigating what they think could be that site, which could contain his mummy and other burial objects. A mummy found in the 1800s (left) was believed to be Thutmose II, but they think it was misidentified and is not him.

It's not clear why Thutmose II's tomb wasn't in the Valley of the Kings where Hatshepsut is buried. Some experts think she was the first ruler buried in the valley, which could explain why her husband was laid to rest elsewhere. There are also some archaeologists who do not think the newly found tomb ever belonged to Thutmose II at all. They said more evidence is required and that it's more likely the pharaoh was buried in the Valley of the Kings at a site that has not yet been found.

Who was King Tut?

King Tut's mask

King Tutankhamun, who is also known as King Tut or the Boy King, ruled Egypt during the 14th century BCE. He became pharaoh when he was 9 years old but died when he was 19, most likely from disease. In one of the most significant finds in archaeological history, King Tut's tomb was discovered in 1922 by the archaeologist Howard Carter. The find made Carter—and King Tut—famous.

Tut's mummy was buried inside three coffins and covered with an elaborate mask of solid gold (above). Thousands of other artifacts were found within the tomb, including jewelry, amulets, weapons, and gold-covered chariots. Many of these artifacts, including the gold mask, have toured the world and are now on display at the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza, Egypt.

Dogs in goggles participate in new study

What's the best way to get a dog to follow commands? Some very patient pups wore goggles with cameras to help scientists find out.

Experts from the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, in Austria, put the eye gear on 20 pet dogs. The test subjects included a range of breeds, from mutts to terriers, retrievers, and shepherds.

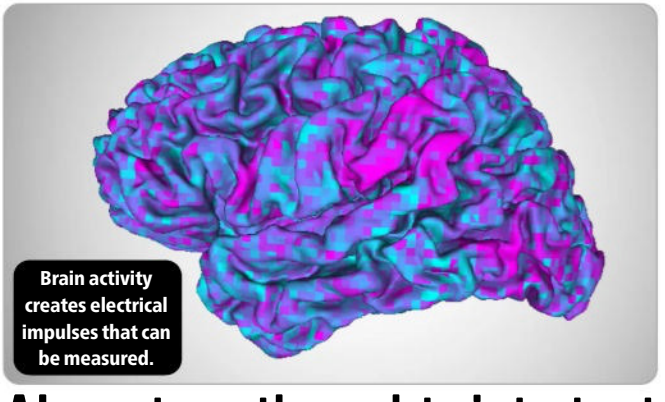
SUPER SMART
Most dogs can understand between 165 and 250 words, which is about as many as a 2-year-old human child knows.

During the study, a researcher knelt on the floor in front of a dog and put a bowl down on each side of her. One bowl held a treat, and the other did not. The researcher tried to direct the dog's attention to the bowl with the treat using various combinations of gestures. She pointed at the bowl, looked at the bowl, or did both at the same time. The researcher also pretended to throw a ball toward the bowl that contained the treat. The whole time, one camera in the goggles tracked the dog's eye movements, while another captured what the dog was seeing.

According to the results, when the researcher pointed at the bowl with the treat, the dog looked in that direction. But when she pointed and looked at the bowl, the dog turned its gaze from her face to her hand and then right to the bowl with the treat.

The findings suggested that dogs understood that the combination of gestures was telling them where the treat was. But the team said more research is needed to determine exactly what and how much the dogs grasped.

Would your dog be willing to wear headgear in the name of science?



Brain activity creates electrical impulses that can be measured.

AI can turn thoughts into text

People with a brain disorder called aphasia struggle to understand spoken language or find the words to express what they're thinking. Scientists have found a way to help them with a "brain decoding" tool that converts their thoughts into text.

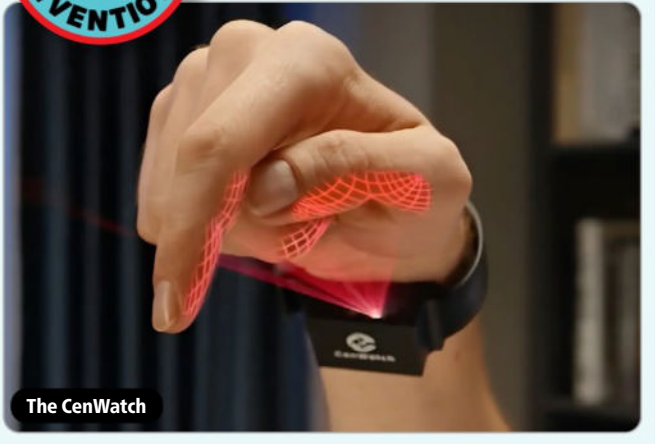
The tool scans and tracks a person's brain activity. Then artificial intelligence (AI, when computers learn) matches specific brain activity to certain words or phrases, creating a "language" for that person.

A previous version of the tool required each person to train the AI by spending 16 hours in a scanning machine while listening to podcasts. But that was impractical.

Now, instead of training the AI from scratch for every new user, the team uses the earlier version as a shortcut. The latest tool spends an hour tracking a new person's brain activity and decoding it. Then it blends that with what it already knows and translates it into text.

AMAZING INVENTION

A laser watch that controls devices



The CenWatch

A new smartwatch has lasers that track hand movement, allowing a user to control their devices with gestures made in the air. The makers of CenWatch said it first scans a wearer's hand and fingers. Then, when they tap or swipe in real life, it translates those movements into writing, drawing, typing, scrolling, tapping, or clicking.

CenWatch, which is still in the developmental phase, can operate smart TVs, augmented reality glasses, and smart home devices like speakers. It also has a screen that displays the date, time, and battery level.

CHRISTOPH VÖLTER; JERRY TANG/UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN; CENWATCH; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Photos of the week

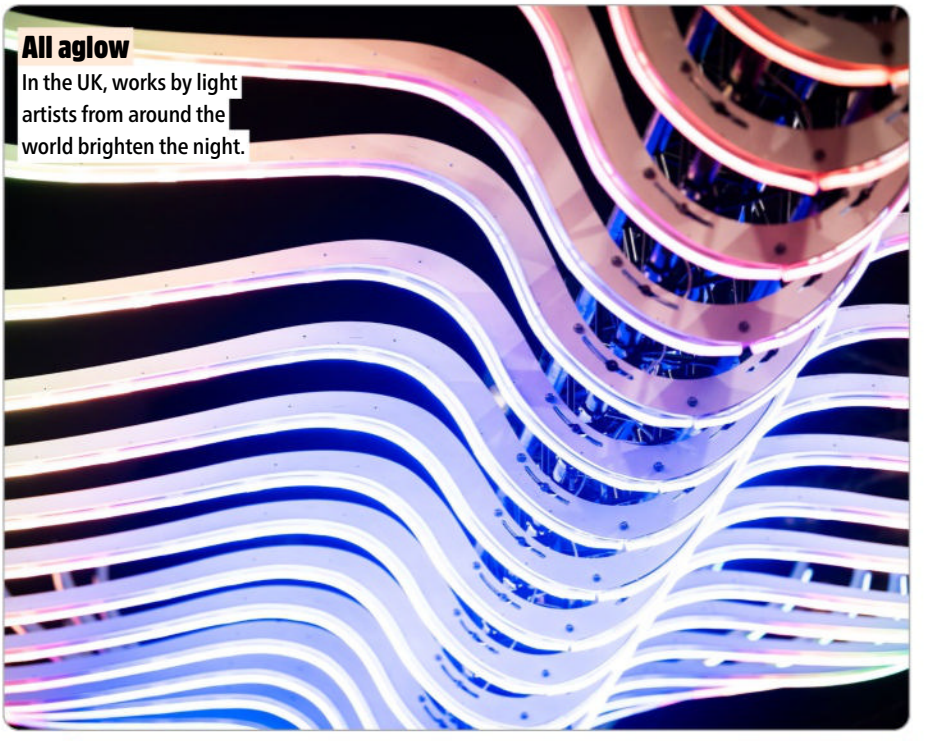
Dazzling design
An intricate carpet covers the floor of a 14th-century mosque in Turkey.

Fruit stand
Lemons and oranges make up a display at a festival in France.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

Photos of the week

Spring scene
A bird perches on a flowering plum tree in a park in China.



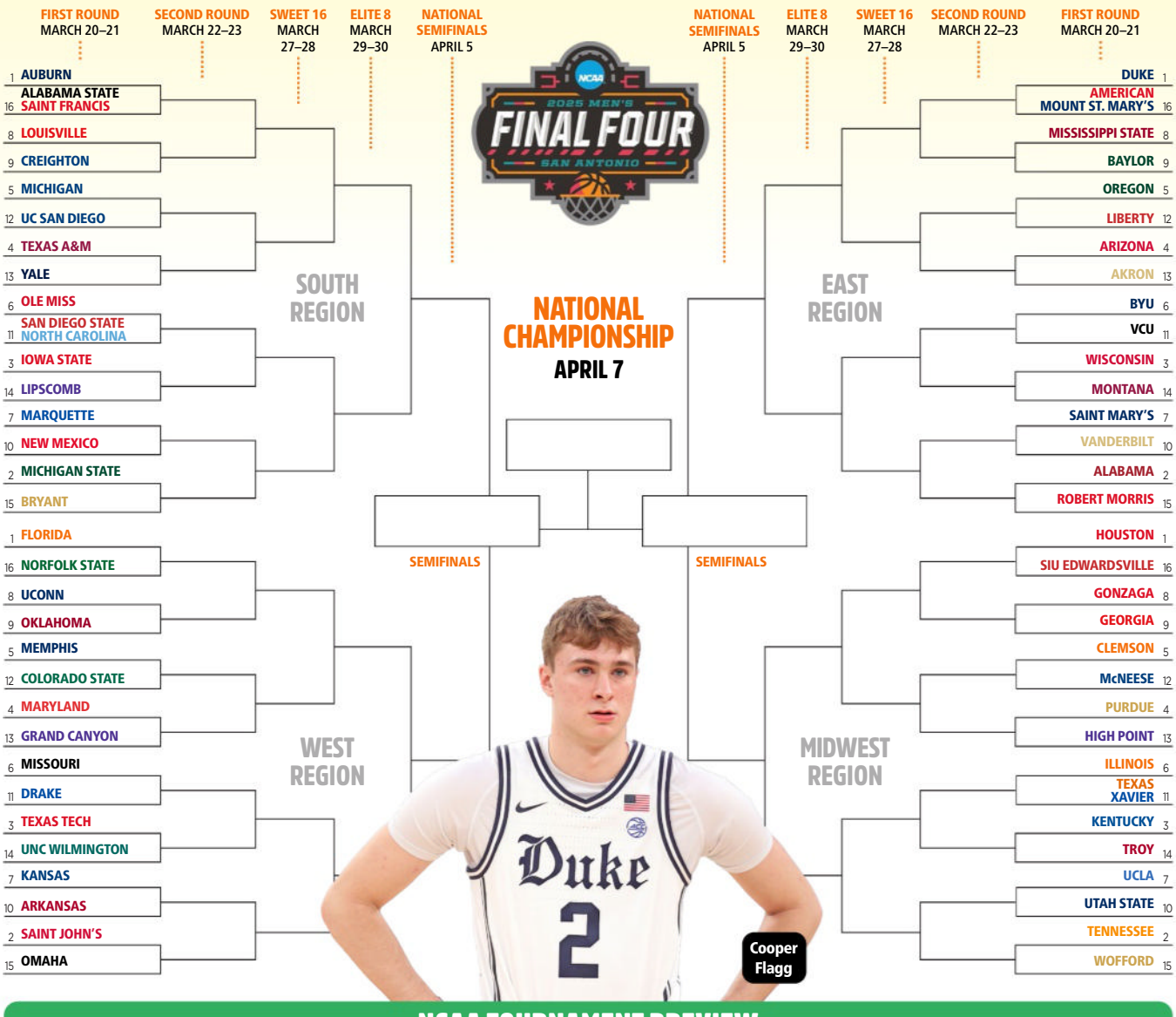
All aglow
In the UK, works by light artists from around the world brighten the night.

Bright sight
A crowd gathers in China to watch a fireworks and drone show in the sky.

Spot on
The Moon rises over an ancient stone structure in Turkey.

The most exciting event in

The NCAA men's basketball tournament will be played in 13 locations before wrapping up in San Antonio, Texas.



NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

What's happening

Each spring, the top college basketball teams play in the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) tournament, also known as March Madness. The field consists of teams that won their conference tournaments and those chosen for their strong regular-season records. The winner of each game moves to the next round.

Men's teams to watch

Auburn, led by Southeastern Conference (SEC) player of the year Johni Broome, received the #1 overall seed. Duke, another #1 seed, is seeking its sixth NCAA title. Their top player, freshman sensation Cooper Flagg, has been out with an ankle injury but is expected to be ready for the first round. Experts are also looking at St. John's, a #2 seed coached by Rick Pitino. He has led three teams to the Final Four and is the only coach in history to win a national championship at two different colleges. One underdog team to watch is Drake, which allowed the fewest points per game of any team this season, with 58.4. Also keep an eye on UConn, which is seeking its third consecutive national championship.

college hoops starts now!

Most of the women's tournament will take place in two cities before it moves to Tampa, Florida, for the Final Four.

Hannah Hidalgo

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

Women's teams to watch

UCLA was selected as the #1 overall seed after an impressive 30–2 season. Their star player, Lauren Betts, averaged 19.6 points and 9.7 rebounds per game. Both UCLA losses came against USC, which also received a #1 seed and is led by star guard JuJu Watkins. Another #1 seed, defending champion South Carolina, is seeking their third national title in four seasons. Two star players to watch are Notre Dame's Hannah Hidalgo and UConn's Paige Bueckers. Hidalgo averaged 24.2 points per game, the third highest in the country. Bueckers, who is expected to be the #1 pick in this year's WNBA draft, was recently named the Big East Player of the Year for a record-tying third time.

Find out more

Use these brackets to follow the men's and women's tournaments. Predict which team you think will win each game and who the semifinalists and champions will be. Learn more about teams and players at ncaa.com. Printable versions of these brackets can be downloaded at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Brackets2025.

GOOD IDEA
Thanks to a suggestion from fourth graders, New Jersey named the Hadrosaurus foulkii its state dinosaur in 1991.

A hadrosaur at the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum

Destination for dinosaur fans

The new Edelman Fossil Park and Museum has life-size animal depictions, immersive experiences, and a quarry for digging.

In 1858, the world's first nearly complete dinosaur skeleton, a hadrosaurus, was found in New Jersey. Eight years later, a dryptosaurus—a type of Tyrannosaur—was found about 10 miles away. About a mile from there, in Mantua Township, the Edelman Fossil Park and Museum of Rowan University will open on March 29.

The museum was built next to a quarry where experts have recovered more than 100,000 fossils of marine and land animals. "We have one of the most incredible windows in the world into the last moments of the dinosaurs," paleontologist and geologist Kenneth Lacovara, the museum's founding executive director, told *The Week Junior*.

A rendering of the building

Inside the museum, visitors can learn about dinosaurs as well as ways to protect the Earth's future. One set of galleries (rooms) focuses on the Cretaceous period (145 to 66 million years ago). They are filled with more than 50 dinosaur re-creations and other prehistoric creatures. There are also sounds, lights, and vegetation that help re-create the dinosaurs' world. One area, Dinosaur Coast, has creatures that lived on the east coast of North America, while Monstrous Seas centers on ancient marine life. The museum also has a film about the asteroid crash that led to dinosaur extinction, a virtual reality experience, and live animals that help draw a connection between the past and present.

From May to October, visitors will be able to head to the quarry and dig for fossils to take home. "If you're not afraid to get your hands a little dirty," Lacovara said, "you can find a 66-million-year-old sample with your own hands."

3 museum highlights

Scientists at work

In one area, visitors can watch as scientists handle fossils that came from locations nearby or around the world. The building lobby also has a monitor that is connected to a microscope the experts use for examinations.

Fossils

Over the past 16 years, experts working in the quarry near the museum have recovered more than 100 species from the earth. Many of them are now on display in the museum. There is also an exhibit that re-creates the quarry's fossil bed.

Life-size creatures

It took about three years to make the dinosaurs in the exhibits. One is a thoracosaurus (above), a type of crocodile that lived 66 million years ago. The model was based on a skeleton found about 75 yards from where the replica sits today.

LONG TRIP The first recorded cross-country road trip in the US was from San Francisco to New York City in 1903.

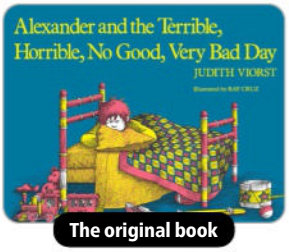
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Road Trip

Fun film about a boy's bad luck

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, a beloved picture book by Judith Viorst about an unlucky boy, has inspired a new film. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Road Trip* is a comedy about a boy named Alexander Garcia and his family's vacation filled with mishaps. It premieres March 28 on Disney+.

In the film, Alex finds a mysterious statue in his family's attic. He thinks it is the source of his bad luck and that his family is cursed. After his mom, a travel writer, gets an RV, she takes the family on a road trip to Mexico to reconnect with their cultural roots. Many things go wrong along the way, convincing Alex the statue needs to be returned to its rightful place.

Director Marvin Lemus, who grew up reading the original *Alexander* book, wanted to honor its message about overcoming bad days. He also saw the film as an opportunity to spotlight a Latino family in an action-comedy that also explores identity and self-acceptance. Paulina Chavez, who plays Alex's sister, Mia, told *The Week Junior*, "Throughout the film, she's reminded of the importance of family and sticking together through thick and thin."



The original book

Thom Nemer, who plays Alex, told *The Week Junior* he found the film's story and themes relatable and that he liked how it blends comedy with a lesson about growth. Alex always sees things as negative and is "cautious and emotional," Nemer said, but "utter chaos and pressure"—as well as love—help him change. Nemer hopes viewers will remember a valuable lesson from the film: "There's always light at the end of the tunnel, no matter how long it is."

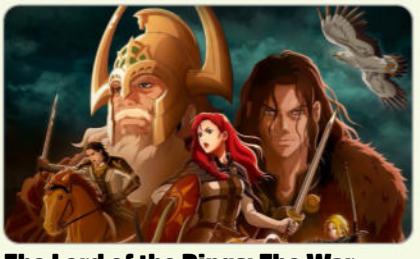
READER RECOMMENDS

Labyrinth *PG (Available to rent or buy on major platforms)*
"This movie follows Sarah, a girl fed up with looking after her baby brother, Toby. She loves a fairy-tale book, *Labyrinth*, and wishes that its goblins would take Toby away. She doesn't expect it to happen, but it does. Sarah begs the goblin king, Jareth, to give Toby back and he agrees—but with a catch: Sarah must get through his obstacle-filled maze. Along the way, she makes friends with a grumpy goblin, a friendly furry beast, and a fox-like knight. I got a behind-the-scenes book about the movie, *Labyrinth: The Ultimate Visual History,* and can't stop reading it!" Lila, 12, Wisconsin

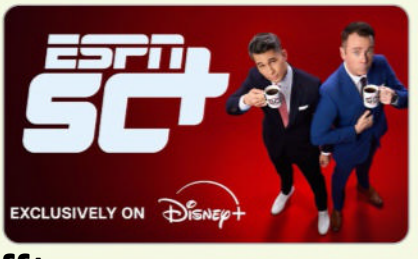
Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Animals, They're Just Like Us!
(Disney+) (Hulu) (Nat Geo Wild)
Many wild animals engage in behaviors that appear to be similar to human behaviors. This new docuseries highlights several of these animals, including Gouldian finches (above) that socialize, monkeys that floss, flamingos that apply makeup, and elephants that babysit.



The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim
(Max)
This animated film (rated PG-13) is set in the world of J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* book series. It follows a king and his daughter as they defend their people and lay the foundation for Helm's Deep, a famous Tolkien fortress.



SC+
(Disney+)
ESPN's sports news show, *SportsCenter*, now has a streaming spin-off for younger audiences. Each day the hosts break down the biggest stories and tackle fun topics, such as the differences between basketball star Luka Doncic and the title character from the animated film *Luca*.

EDELMAN FOSSIL PARK & MUSEUM OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY (5); BOOK: COURTESY THE PUBLISHER; DISNEY (3); ALAMY; WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT

DID YOU KNOW?
The last time Major League Baseball added new teams was in 1998.

MLB the Show 25

New version of baseball game

MLB the Show 25 is a new sports video game. It is out now for the PlayStation 5, Xbox systems, and the Nintendo Switch. It is the official game of Major League Baseball (MLB). This is the 20th anniversary of the popular series, and for the first time ever, there are three players featured on the cover: Paul Skenes of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Elly De La Cruz of the Cincinnati Reds, and Gunnar Henderson of the Baltimore Orioles.

An updated version of the game is released each year, and the Show 25 has many new features, including a big one in the Road to the Show mode. As in the past, gamers use the mode to design a ballplayer and try to steer the athlete up the ranks to the Major League. In this edition, a player's talents are more customizable, and you can start their career in high school instead of the minor leagues. After that, your player can join one of eight real college baseball teams. There is also a new way to view the action in a game. Now, when you are controlling players in the field, you can shift the perspective from a third-person view to a first-person camera.

The cover stars

There are also changes in the game's Franchise mode, which is about building and running a team. One new feature will be a measure of a player's motivation, so if you want an athlete to sign with your team, you will have to make sure you have a good lineup and offer them the right amount of money.

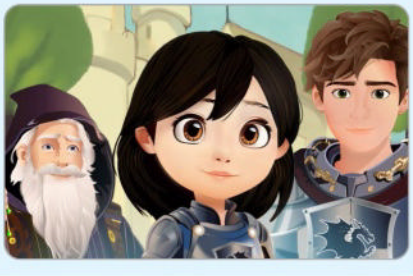
The game also has new animations, which create more realistic player movements on the field. The reaction times will also speed up, creating less drag and more real-time excitement.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

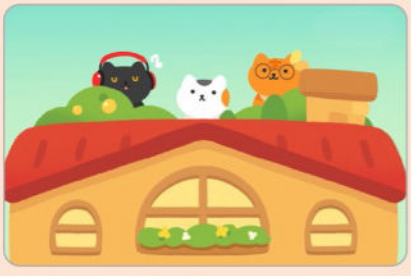
THE SEARCH FOR THE SILVER LINING

Major podcast platforms

Join a young girl named Isla as she embarks on magical time-traveling adventures featuring wizards, knights, and mythical creatures. In the new second season, Isla is in Camelot, where mysterious thefts threaten carnival celebrations.



APP OF THE WEEK



MEOW TOWER

Apple App Store, Google Play

This game is set in a virtual cat sanctuary, and you have to solve grid-like puzzles to unlock pixel art and learn about the feline residents. As you play, you earn in-game rewards that can be used to furnish and decorate rooms to create a cozy home for the cats.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

HOW THIS GUY BALANCES IMPOSSIBLE ROCK STRUCTURES

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Balance

Michael Grab creates towering rock sculptures without using glue or wire for support—only balance and gravity. He has gained worldwide recognition for his impressive formations, and this video reveals the patience it takes to do his work.

PLAYSTATION (2); GOKIDGO; HYPERBEARD; GRAVITY GLUE

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Cincinnati Lee, Curse Breaker

By Heidi Heilig

(Greenwillow Books)

Cincinnati's great-great-great grandfather is 135 years old because he once drank water from the fountain of youth. When 12-year-old Cincinnati visits him at his nursing home, he can't talk, so she steals his diary to learn more about his past adventures. She discovers that years ago he removed a clay artifact from a mummy's tomb in Peru. She thinks this may be why their family is cursed. The artifact will be displayed in a New York City museum where her mom works in the fundraising department. Cincinnati asks her friend Felix, whose dad also works at the museum, to create a forgery (look-alike version) of the artifact so she can return the original. Cincinnati switches out the pieces and carefully places the original in her bag. But while she's still at the museum, someone steals the relic from her. She blames her misfortune on the curse! Tracking down the thief who has the artifact with the help of a new friend takes her on a wild chase involving art smugglers, an ancient map, and a big twist. This mystery adventure has hilarious dialogue and nonstop action.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Heidi Heilig

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?
I am passionate about archaeology, the study of human history through artifacts, and I wanted to combine that with my love of adventure stories involving puzzles and collecting treasure.

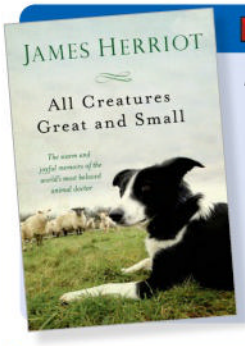
Why do you like writing for kids?
Young people today are smart and direct yet still in touch with their sense of wonder. I love looking at the world through their lens.

Favorite museum?
The American Museum of Natural History in New York City because I love to view the dinosaur bones there.

Have you always enjoyed adventures?
Yes! The Indiana Jones films, *The Mummy*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean* were my favorite movies when I was younger.

Place you'd like to visit?
I've always wanted to go to the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt.

READER RECOMMENDS



COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS

All Creatures Great and Small *By James Herriot*

"This book is about a newly graduated veterinarian named James Herriot. He gets a job offer in a small rural town in England called Darrowby. This book kept me reading because I always wanted to find out what happened to all the different animals he was treating. It is enchanting to read and leaves you wanting more!" Ginny, 12, Washington

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 joke books that are full of big laughs

Discover new jokes you can tell and get tips on writing your own zingers.

The Funniest Joke Book Ever for Kids

By Alan Katz, illustrated by Ellen Duda

(Scholastic Inc.)

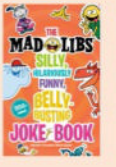
Jokes are organized by topic, such as animals, medicine, and sports. One favorite: "Why did the pie go to the dentist? It needed a filling!" Just in time for April Fools' Day, the book contains ideas for practical jokes. *Ages 7–10*

LOL 101

By David Roth and Rinee Shah

(Chronicle Books)

This book provides a visual guide to help you write your own material. It provides many strategies with examples for coming up with your own jokes. It also gives helpful tips about how to deliver a joke, such as with the right timing and emphasis on words, so it sounds even funnier. *Ages 7–12*



The Mad Libs Silly, Hilariously Funny, Belly-Busting Joke Book

By Stacy Wasserman and Mad Libs (Mad Libs)

With Mad Libs, you fill in the blanks with a specific part of speech to create goofy material. For example, add a noun to the blank space in the following joke: "What did the _____ say to the keyboard? You're my type!" *Ages 8–12*

Matilda's Jokes for Awesome Kids

By Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake

(Grosset & Dunlap)

Featuring characters from the classic novel *Matilda*, this book is organized in the order of a school day. The Welcome to School section includes zingers such as "How do bees get to school? On the school buzz." The drawings sprinkled throughout are terrific. *Ages 7–10*

BIRTHDAY TRIVIA
In the US, August is the month that has the most birthdays. February has the fewest.

Honor your special milestones

Celebrate the highlights of your life—both big and small—with these ideas.

Birthdays are a major occasion to celebrate. But there's also joy in recognizing life's smaller moments, such as mastering a new skill, acing a presentation, or achieving a personal best in your favorite sport. Research shows celebrating small moments boosts self-confidence, fosters gratitude, and increases your sense of well-being. Here's how to get started.

Pick something to celebrate

First, think about what you'd like to celebrate. It can be a recent milestone, or you can start planning to celebrate a special moment that's coming up in the future. Reflect on any achievements in and out of school. For example, maybe you did better than you expected on a difficult test. Perhaps you tried something brand-new, like joining stage crew for the school play or participating in the county spelling bee. You may have earned a new badge in scouting or made your first 3-point shot on the basketball court. You can even celebrate milestones you might overlook, like getting a cast taken off, having your first pet-sitting job, or being tall enough to ride the biggest roller coaster at the amusement park.

Choose a joyful message to write on a cake.

Express gratitude

Think about who helped you achieve your milestone or supported you along the way. Was it a parent, coach, or teacher? Who cheered you on and encouraged you? You could send them a note to thank them or share a photo of your recent success to make them smile. If you decide to have a celebration, talk to your family about inviting close relatives to share in the festivities with you. If they live far away, you can set up a video call with them.

Decide how you'll celebrate

Your celebration can be as simple as doing something together with your family, like having a favorite dinner at home or at a restaurant, taking a hike or a bike ride at a local park, or going to the movies. If you'd like to have a small party, talk to your family about the date and a guest list. You could have a special cake with writing in icing on top that recognizes your milestone, whatever it may be. Something simple—like "Way to go!"—covers almost any achievement. Or you can get creative or silly. If you're celebrating getting your braces off, for instance, you can write "Brace yourself for a new smile!" Be sure to take plenty of pictures to remember this day. (See the box at right for ways to make your party eco-friendly.)

Pay it forward

One of the best ways to appreciate what you've accomplished is to give back. If you have achieved a personal goal or completed a big project, you can use the knowledge you've gained to help others. For example, if you worked up the courage to audition for the school play, you could help a nervous friend or younger sibling understand what the audition process is like and help them prepare for their own audition. If you aced a recent test, you could offer to help a classmate by tutoring them. You could also use skills you've learned—such as organizing a project from start to finish—to contribute to a community project, like helping to plan a food drive.

Whip up *The Week Junior*'s birthday shake!

To mark our fifth anniversary, we've created this special birthday shake recipe, which uses five simple ingredients. Enjoy!

WARNING! Ask an adult's permission before using the microwave or blender.

Ingredients

- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Colorful sprinkles
- 1 cup vanilla ice cream
- ⅓ cup milk
- Whipped cream, for topping

Instructions

1. Place the chocolate chips in a small bowl that is just wide enough to fit the rim of a large glass (or two small glasses). Microwave in 20-second intervals, stirring after each, until melted and smooth.
2. Invert and dip the rim of a glass into the melted chocolate, then immediately coat the chocolate rim in sprinkles. Set aside to harden.
3. Combine the ice cream and milk in a blender and blend until smooth.
4. Carefully pour the shake into the prepared glass and top with whipped cream.
5. Add a festive paper straw and enjoy. Recipe makes 1 large shake or 2 small ones.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: 5 WAYS TO CUT PARTY WASTE

1. **Wrap creatively.** Kraft paper and string make an eco-friendly alternative to shiny gift wrap and bows that can't be recycled.
2. **Go easy on tape.** Instead of clear plastic tape to wrap gifts, use environmentally friendly paper tape, like washi tape.
3. **Skip the glitter.** Glitter is a microplastic, which is a big part of global pollution. Add color to decor with dried flower petals instead.
4. **Reuse wrap.** Whenever you receive a gift, save the wrapping—like gift bags and bows—so you can reuse them again.
5. **Use regular dishes.** Pass on paper and plastic products, and serve party foods on washable glass or ceramic dishware.

You can wrap gifts sustainably.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ERICA CLARK

Keyword crossword

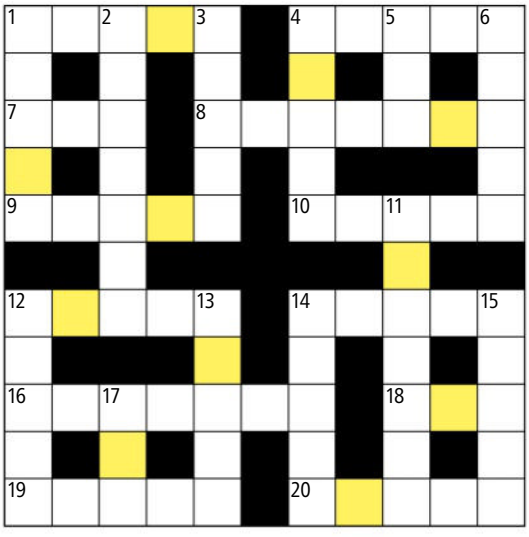
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

1 Linguine or macaroni, for example
4 Thread comes rolled around it
7 Word on a Mother's Day card
8 These may hang from a snowy roof
9 Sound of an approaching ambulance
10 Periods lasting 365 days (on Earth)
12 Difficult to bend
14 They're found all over a corkboard
16 Flipping circus performer
18 Item found in a hen's nest
19 Hot ___ sundae
20 Submit your name for a raffle drawing

DOWN

1 Devices for filling bicycle tires
2 Japanese warrior
3 Being that might arrive in a flying saucer
4 Glistening in the light
5 Bird seen around Hogwarts
6 "Top Ten" and "To do," for two examples
11 Belonging to a long-gone civilization
12 Item accompanying a wool hat and heavy gloves
13 Story in a collection by Aesop
14 Name by which a song, movie, or book is known
15 It makes candy taste sweet
17 ___ and reel (fishing equipment)



Keyword question: What building, only five stories tall, is the largest office building in the United States?

THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

AGENT IN SCRATCH UP START
ARMS SERVICE FROM SECRET

CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of "five"-related things, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every V here is an uncoded S. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

S _ _ S _ S
V D L V D V

_ _ _ _ _ _ S
Z A L H D Q V

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ S
H Q D Y P M Y G D V

_ _ _ _ _ _
L A S G D M

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28.

Cutting room

Divide this grid into five sections so each section consists of five adjacent boxes containing the numbers 1–5. The sections may have different shapes.

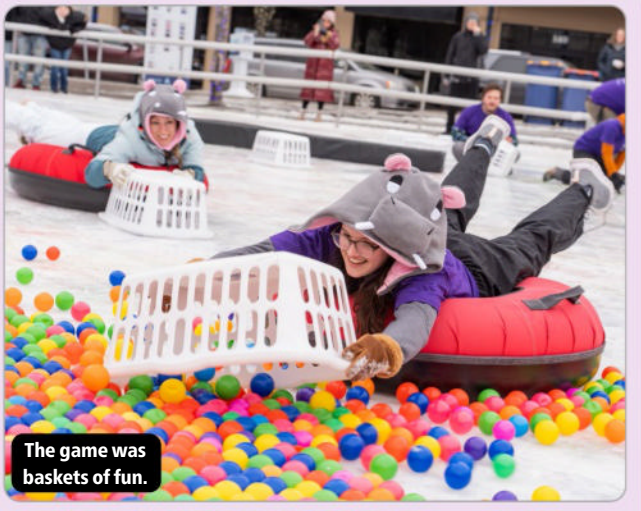
5	1	3	2	1
4	5	2	5	4
1	3	4	1	2
5	2	5	3	3
2	4	1	4	3

Spot the difference

These two pictures appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Code cracker hint: Every H here is an uncoded G.



The game was baskets of fun.

Hungry hippos, human-style

Families recently gathered in Michigan to play a real-life version of the board game Hungry Hungry Hippos. In the tabletop game, people try to scoop plastic marbles into the mouths of mechanical hippos. Instead, this event took place on an ice rink, where teams raced around on sleds and used laundry baskets to scoop up as many colorful toy balls as possible. The game was part of the World of Winter, the nation's largest winter festival. "Put me in, coach!" one person joked after seeing a video online.

Lights, camera, fashion!

A ready-to-glow fashion show

A fashion show in Paris, France, really lit up the runway. Japanese designer Kunihiko Morinaga outfitted models in smock dresses made from yarn inlaid with tiny LED lights. As the models walked, the fabric displayed colorful arrays, from shimmering starry scenes to patterns that looked like stained glass windows. Morinaga said he was inspired by the two-sided placards people used to wear to advertise businesses. He added, "Fashion is something that never stops and is always moving and changing."

The veggie musicians

A fresh take on making music

Some say not to play with your food, but tell that to the Vegetable Orchestra. For more than 25 years, the Austria-based group has been producing tunes by hollowing out veggies like celery, eggplants, and carrots. "You can make music with everything," the members say—even a "leek violin" or "cucumberphone." The orchestra has performed 344 concerts, which earned it a Guinness World Records title. After each show, any unused vegetables are made into soup and served to the audience.

Who wants a treat?

Teatime with a tail-wagging twist

The UK's largest enclosed dog park has started offering dogs and their owners a paw-fect afternoon tea experience. Ross & Friends' afternoon tea is modeled after a famous British tradition and includes dog-friendly biscuits, pastries, dog tea, and a chew toy. Happy hounds can also try out a "sniffari"—a fully enclosed private forest where dogs can explore nose-first—or head for the ball lagoon, playland, or water woodland. Is this story tea-rifically true, or is it steeped in lies?*

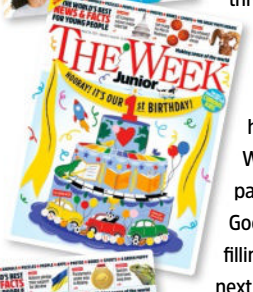
*Real! After exploring the park, pups can wash up at the doggie shower to remove all the muck before they sit down for a 100% dog-friendly afternoon tea. One pet owner said, "This place is literally heaven."

DOWNTOWN GRAND RAPIDS/BRYAN ESLER; GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY; GWR; ROSSANDFRIENDS.UK; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Editor's note

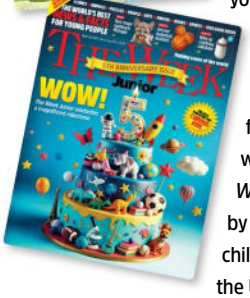
Five years ago this week, our editorial team sent the first issue of *The Week Junior* to the printer. After all the preparation leading up to that day, it was an amazing feeling to know that the issue would soon arrive in children's homes throughout the country. We marked our first birthday a year later and celebrated our first 100 issues the year after that. Now we are 5 years old and so excited to share this milestone with you!

To celebrate, we created special content throughout the issue and marked it with a burst with a number 5 inside. We hope you enjoy it all!



We also invite you to participate in our Five Good Deeds initiative by filling out the form on the next page. We think any occasion offers an opportunity to give back, and we look forward to hearing what you've done to help others.

So much has happened in the past five years—in your lives and ours, within our country, and around the world. We are all different than we were five years ago, and we have all grown. *The Week Junior* has been read by hundreds of thousands of children, just like you, across the US. In fact, we recently learned that we are the fastest-growing magazine in America—another reason to celebrate!



Thank you for reading *The Week Junior* and helping us grow. Huge thanks as well to every member of our team for the creativity and commitment they bring to this magazine. I am grateful for all of you. Happy fifth anniversary!

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

YOUR FAVORITE ISSUE!

Thank you to our readers who shared the issue they have enjoyed most to mark our fifth anniversary!

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

P	A	S	T	A		S	P	O	O	L
U		A		L		H		W		I
M	O	M		I	C	I	C	L	E	S
P		U		E		N				T
S	I	R	E	N		Y	E	A	R	S
		A						N		
S	T	I	F	F		T	A	C	K	S
C				A		I		I		U
A	C	R	O	B	A	T		E	G	G
R		O		L		L		N		A
F	U	D	G	E		E	N	T	E	R

Keyword answer: The Pentagon

Code cracker
senses
fingers
Great Lakes
nickel

Three for all
up in arms
start from scratch
Secret Service agent

5	1	3	2	1
4	5	2	5	4
1	3	4	1	2
5	2	5	3	3
2	4	1	4	3

Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** 2020 **2** b) Elly De La Cruz **3** b) Medicine **4** True **5** Thutmose II **6** c) J.R.R. Tolkien **7** b) New Jersey **8** False. He composed it when he was 5 years old. **9** True **10** Mexico City **11** a) African penguins **12** False. He removed a clay artifact from a tomb in Peru. **13** Goggles **14** True **15** c) Hungry Hungry Hippos

GETTY IMAGES

Five ways I helped others

To celebrate our fifth anniversary, we invite you to share five good deeds you've done by filling out this form. Have you helped a neighbor or donated food? We'd love to read about any kind act you have performed. If you'd like to share your form with us, have an adult email it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Some forms may be published in future issues. Extra forms can be found at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.

First name: _____ **Age:** _____ **State:** _____

Why do you like helping others?

_____

_____

_____

List five good deeds you have done that made someone's life better:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Draw a picture of yourself doing a good deed.

By submitting this form to *hello@theweekjunior.com*, you give *The Week Junior* consent to print it in the magazine and online. Please get your guardian/parent's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In what year was the first issue of *The Week Junior* published?

2 Which baseball player is one of three people on the cover of the video game MLB the Show 25?

a) Aaron Judge b) Elly De La Cruz

c) Francisco Lindor

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 What did Mikaela Loach study in college before becoming a full-time climate activist?

a) Engineering b) Medicine c) Physics

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 True or false? Wild cougar cubs were recently seen in Michigan for the first time in 100 years.

True ☐ False ☐

5 Researchers have uncovered a royal tomb believed to belong to what ancient Egyptian ruler?

6 A treefrog discovered in Ecuador in 2023 was named after which fantasy author?

a) C.S. Lewis b) J.K. Rowling

c) J.R.R. Tolkien

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 In 1858, the world's first nearly complete dinosaur skeleton was found in which state?

a) New Hampshire b) New Jersey

c) New York

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 True or false? Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed his first known work when he was 10 years old.

True ☐ False ☐

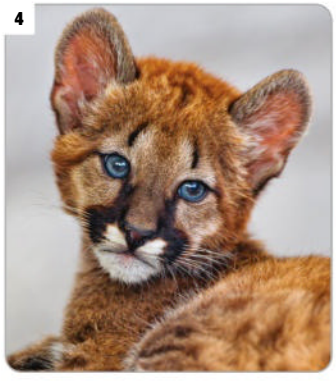
8

11

1

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28.

4



14

9 True or false? This year's Regeneron Science Talent Search had the highest number of entries since 1967.

True ☐ False ☐

10 What is the travel destination in the new film *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Road Trip*?

11 The New England Aquarium has opened a special new enclosure for what kind of older penguins?

a) African penguins

b) Emperor penguins

c) King penguins

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? In the book *Cincinnati Lee, Curse Breaker*, Cincinnati's grandfather removed a clay artifact from a mummy's tomb in Egypt.

True ☐ False ☐

13 Scientists studying communication between people and dogs had the animals wear what accessory?

14 True or false? Saturn has twice as many moons as all the other planets in the solar system combined.

True ☐ False ☐

15 Families at the World of Winter festival in Michigan played a real-life version of which board game?

a) Candy Land

b) Clue

c) Hungry Hungry Hippos

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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IN FULL BLOOM

Forget-me-nots, which always have five petals and come in a variety of colors, can be found near shady woodlands, streams, and riverbanks.

GETTY IMAGES

9001
9000